

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (*Currently Amended*) A ship's steering unit comprising a mounting ~~which is part of the structure of the ship~~, and in which a rudder is pivotally mounted, the angular positioning of said rudder being servo-controlled by an asynchronous ~~a~~ motor comprising a stator rigidly fixed to the mounting, and a rotor rigidly fixed to said rudder, wherein said rudder is held in position by controlling a ~~the~~ power supply to the motor to adjust a slip frequency of the rotor.

2. (*Currently Amended*) A ship's steering unit according to claim 1, in which the motor is ~~an asynchronous motor which is~~ powered by a power converter controlled so as to hold said rudder in position.

3. (*Currently Amended*) A steering unit according to claim 1, in which said rudder comprises ~~includes~~ a steering cone pivotally mounted in said mounting, and in which said electric motor is mounted inside said steering cone.

4. (*Currently Amended*) A steering unit according to claim 1, in which said rudder comprises ~~includes~~ an underwater portion in the form of a rudder blade.

5. (*Currently Amended*) A steering unit according to claim 1, in which said rudder comprises ~~includes~~ an underwater portion in the form of a pod enclosing a propulsion motor for propelling said ship.

6. (*Currently Amended*) A steering unit according to claim 5[[2]], in which said electric motor is cooled by the ventilation system of said propulsion motor.

7. (*Currently Amended*) A steering unit according to claim 2, in which the stator comprises ~~has~~ a plurality of electrical windings, each of which is powered by an independent power converter.

8. (*New*) A ship's steering unit comprising a mounting and in which a rudder is pivotally mounted, the angular positioning of said rudder being servo-controlled by a motor comprising a stator rigidly fixed to the mounting, and a rotor rigidly fixed to said rudder, wherein said rudder comprises a steering cone pivotally mounted in said mounting, said electric motor is mounted inside said steering cone and said rudder is held in position by controlling a power supply to the motor.

9. (*New*) A ship's steering unit according to claim 8, in which the motor is is powered by a power converter controlled so as to hold said rudder in position.

10. (*New*) A steering unit according to claim 8, in which said rudder comprises an underwater portion in the form of a rudder blade.

11. (*New*) A steering unit according to claim 8, in which said rudder comprises an underwater portion in the form of a pod enclosing a propulsion motor for propelling said ship.

12. (*New*) A steering unit according to claim 11, in which said electric motor is cooled by the ventilation system of said propulsion motor.

13. (*New*) A steering unit according to claim 9, in which the stator comprises a plurality of electrical windings, each of which is powered by an independent power converter.

14. (*New*) A ship's steering unit comprising a mounting in which a rudder is pivotally mounted, the angular positioning of said rudder being servo-controlled by an asynchronous motor comprising a torodial-shaped electrical means rigidly fixed to the mounting, and a torodial-shaped magnetic means rigidly fixed to said rudder, wherein said torodial-shaped magnetic means rotates about a central axis of said torodial-shaped electrical means and a power supply to the motor is controlled to adjust a slip frequency of the torodial-shaped magnetic means to apply a torque to hold said rudder in position.

15. (*New*) A ship's steering unit according to claim 14, in which the motor is an asynchronous motor which is powered by a power converter controlled so as to hold said rudder in position.

16. (*New*) A steering unit according to claim 14, in which said rudder comprises a steering cone pivotally mounted in said mounting, and in which said electric motor is mounted inside said steering cone.

17. (*New*) A steering unit according to claim 14, in which said rudder comprises an underwater portion in the form of a rudder blade.

18. (*New*) A steering unit according to claim 14, in which said rudder comprises an underwater portion in the form of a pod enclosing a propulsion motor for propelling said ship.

19. (*New*) A steering unit according to claim 18, in which said electric motor is cooled by the ventilation system of said propulsion motor.

20. (*New*) A steering unit according to claim 15, in which the electrical means comprises a plurality of electrical windings, each of which is powered by an independent power converter.